



Claire Doodle



Forever Blue



Fast Forward



Mariposa Autumn





Agaain and Again



Cruise to Autumn



Concertina



Rosalie Figge

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	_ 4
Board Meeting Minutes	5
General Membership Meeting Minutes	
Nominating Committee Report	
Membership Information	
Advertising Rates	
In Memory of Keith Chadwick	21
Reblooming Iris Resource List	
Letter From the Editor	29
ARTICLES	
Rebloomers In The Awards	7
Reblooming Iris in Kansas and Oregonby Nancy P	
Keeping The Dream Aliveby Michael Locks	atell 11
Midsummer Night's Dreamby Lowell Baumu	
Rosalie Yerkes Figge- An Amazing Womanby Joan Robe	
Memories of Rosalieby Clarence Mah	an 16
Rosalie Yerkes Figgeby Ron Mulle	
A Friendship Treasured by Robin Shad	
Indiana Rebloomby Mary Lou Swann-Yo	ung 19
Fall Show Results Region 3 & 4	
Rebloom in Kentucky 2006by Betty Wilker	rson 20
Early History of Reblooming Irises	21
Fateby Mary Lou Swann-You	ing 22
The Curtain Rises on Late Rebloom in Central VA_by Michael Lock	catell 23
Discussions on Genetics of Daylength Independent Robloomers	25
Cover Photo: Midsummer Night's Dream (Baumunk 99) photo courtesy of Lowell E	Baumunk
Inside Cover: Cruise to Autumn, Claire Doodle, Forever Blue and Concertina photos c photo of Rosalie Figge courtesy of Rosalie Ann Figge Beasley	ourtesy of Nancy Price
Inside Back Cover: Crump seedlings and introductions courtesy of Griff Crump Region 3& 4 show winners photos courtesy of Anita Moran	
Back Cover: photos courtesy of Colleen Modra	

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President's Message

At this writing, we are having a drier than usual autumn here in the Northwest, which is wonderful for working out in the garden. Temperatures are more moderate and we have had just enough rain to make the soil more workable. Rebloom continues in many of the bearded varieties, including standard dwarfs, intermediates and TBs. The maple trees are changing color and reflect the colors of some of the rebloomers – oranges and yellows into red - a pretty time of the year.

We tackled several issues at our board and membership meetings at the convention in Portland in May. We decided to discontinue offering life memberships, following the direction of AIS and several other Sections. They are no longer economically viable. This will not affect those who already have life memberships. We have added \$5.00 to our current membership dues for overseas members, because of the rising postage cost of mailing the Recorder overseas. Canada and Mexico are included in our domestic dues.

It is now possible to renew or take out a new AIS membership online, using PayPal. At the invitation of AIS, it is also possible to take out new or renewal memberships to several of the sections at the same time, using PayPal, at no extra charge to the sections. The Reblooming Iris Society voted to participate in this process. Check this out on the AIS website – <www.irises.org>.

The current RIS checklist was published in 1998 and is now outdated. A committee has been working for several years to update this information. At our spring meeting, RIS voted to publish a completely new Checklist, rather than an addendum to the 1998 version. It is anticipated this will be ready for publication early in 2008. At this time we plan to have both a printed version and one available on a CD. We owe an enormous vote of thanks to this committee which includes Robin Shadlow, Linda Mann and Betty Wilkerson.

As members of The Reblooming Iris Society, your reports on which irises rebloom in your garden, or have extended bloom seasons, are of great importance to the process of keeping our reblooming records updated. In the spring issue of the Recorder was an RIS Symposium to be completed and returned to George Sutton. If you didn't send George a list of your **favorite** reblooming irises, please do so now, even if it is a little late, so we can get our Symposium up and running again. Also, you need to report on all the varieties that rebloomed, or had extended bloom, in your garden to your area director (see list of appropriate Regions in the front of the Recorder). This information is used in keeping our rebloom records up to date, so is also very important. Reports will be published in the Recorder, and can be helpful to see in what areas some of your favorite irises are known to rebloom. Please take the time to send in your rebloom reports.

As our work in the garden winds down and we turn to indoor tasks over winter, it is a good time to think about how you can contribute to our ongoing efforts to increase membership in the Reblooming Iris Society. There are many way to help. Invite a friend to an iris meeting, give a gift membership to RIS, write an article on reblooming irises and send it to our editor Robin Shadlow to expand the knowledge and interest of our readers. Offer to give a program on reblooming irises at your local club, or Region. Do it now! Have a pleasant, safe winter and holiday season.

Barbara Aitken

RBIS Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 23, 2006 Portland, Oregon

The Board Meeting was called to order by Barbara Aitken.

The minutes printed in the Fall Recorder had no corrections. Joan Roberts motioned to approve and George Sutton seconded.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Margaret Sutton who passed out three different reports. Margaret planned on moving \$1,000 from the Money Market to the Checking account. Motion to accept report passed.

Old Business:

Membership records have been converted to the new program. The information will be put onto a CD and given to Directors.

There was some discussion as to what state is under each Director. Barbara will research this. A suggestion was made to put the results in the Fall Recorder.

Roy Epperson submitted information about the Reblooming section of the Judges Handbook, Chapter 14. The only change needed is to change the term "Everbloomer" to "Multiple Rebloomer".

New Business:

The news of Rosalie Figge passing away was announced. A motion was made to make a donation of \$100 in her memory to the AIS General Fund. A recommendation will be made at the General Membership meeting for voting.

Florence Wheat resigned as Northwestern Director. Dave Silverberg will be filling this position. Consensus is needed from the general membership for approval. Motion was made for recommendation and seconded.

Rebloom Symposium: There is no formal symposium at this time. We will wait for a response from the general membership.

<u>Update on checklist</u>: Currently on an Excel file and can be exported. We need a completed updated new checklist as 1998 was the last update. It would be convenient to have this information on CD and will have to address pricing by next Spring, or February 2007 at the earliest.

<u>"E" Memberships:</u> Paying dues online is a way some Sections are going. The current cost is \$30/person plus 2.9%. Not an excessive amount of money. The AIS website will be set up to receive online membership registrations and the RIS Section voted to go along with the idea of "E" Memberships in line with AIS.

<u>Back copies of Recorders.</u> Charlie Brown has several old copies of Recorders. The Board recommended to keep 5 copies and recycle the rest.

AlS Insurance: At the AIS Board Meeting, Michelle Snyder explained how the costs went up tremendously for insurance. Clubs and Regions have donated to the AIS Insurance Fund to help out. George Sutton moved to make a donation for the 1st year of \$100 and Claire Honkanen seconded the motion. Proposal will be taken to the general membership.

Renewal Notices: Some members have reported not receiving notices. RIS will research the idea about members getting notices before the end of their expiration date.

Rebloom Speakers list: A notice will be put in the Recorder to get more speakers on Rebloomers. Barbara suggested having a "Publicity" person and will bring it up at the general membership meeting. Shirley Trip volunteered to help publicity get started. John Weiler was the previous person to do this. Barbara suggested calling him for further information.

Robin program: A question was raised about the Robin and it will be looked in to and reported on the next meeting.

Promotions: Shirley Trio to help out. Membership to RIS to be promoted as gifts for drawings at functions.

<u>Life memberships:</u> Some Sections have discontinued these memberships Terry made the motion to discontinue these memberships effective 5/23/06, Margaret seconded. There was some discussion and all were in favor. RIS will continue Life Memberships for those already in place. The cost to mail the Recorder domestically versus internationally will be investigated.

<u>General Membership meeting program:</u> George Sutton to present the program on Wednesday, 5/24/06. He sent out inquiries as to how people took care of their irises and didn't have a lot of responses. The bottom line is, "do not let them go dormant." George's program will be a CD set to music.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Prass-Jones, Secretary

RBIS General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 5/24/06 Portland, Oregon

Barbara Aitken, President, opened up the meeting to general membership. She discussed the highlights of the Board Meeting.

The new "Invitation to Join" was available for members to take home and distribute to clubs. A new Director for the Northwest region, Dave Silverberg, was nominated, the motion was accepted and passed. Barbara announced that the Board voted to discontinue Life Memberships as they are no longer economically feasible with the fluctuating postal rates and \$7 is added for international memberships. A donation of \$100 to the AIS General Fund in memory of Rosalie Figge was presented. All present were in favor. RBIS is working on the new checklist as the old one is from 1998. Every new membership after the meeting will be given a rhizome. Ken Roberts suggested that people send in a report to each Director so they can be listed. Margaret Sutton gave the Treasurer's Report. RBIS spent more money than taken in. Costs for the Invitation to Join and the membership conversion from DOS to Access were two "one-time" expenses this past year.

George Sutton presented the program on Rebloomers. He talked about donating rhizomes to the City of Porterville who planted them under city lights. The results were 12 months of bloom. George reminded everyone to report on their rebloomers to the Directors and send an email to him. Part of the culture for RE is not to let them go dormant. Keep water on them during the dry season or at least every 2 weeks. Fertilize twice, side dressed. Don't use more than a #5 on the irises. Over #5 is too much nitrogen. High phosphate first, a couple months before bloom is good. You can use dry rabbit pellets (alfalfa) in the soil. Nematodes do not like alfalfa. Too much nitrogen is not good. George read letters he has received from members having problems or questions. Overhead watering causes rot. Drip system is best. George then played a slide show set to Hawaiian music.

The 2006 Nominating Committee hereby submits the following nominees for the position of director of the Reblooming Iris Society for terms from 2007 through 2009:

Joan Roberts (position currently held by Joan Roberts) Sandy Ives (position currently held by Emily Ives)

Both nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

Respectfully submitted, Clarence Mahan, Chairman Joan Roberts, Member Margaret Sutton, Member

REBLOOMERS in the AWARDS

Rebloomers did quite well in the awards this year. 'Midsummer Night's Dream' (Baumunk 99) was recognized with the Sass Medal, the award recognizing the best Intermediate Bearded iris. There are reports from CA, CO, ID, IN, MD, ME, MO, MS, NC, NE, TN, UT, VA, WA in zones 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 (see the article on page 14 for an article on Midsummer Night's Dream') 'Ruby Eruption' (Chapman 97) won the Cook-Douglas Medal for best standard dwarf bearded iris. 'Ruby Eruption' is a repeat bloomer, putting up stalks in some years a few weeks after the first bloom. Rebloom has been reported in CA, NE, OK, Ontario in zones 4, 5, 7 & 9. Tasco's SDB 'Wizard's Return' was recognized with an Award of Merit. Rebloom has been reported in California and Ottawa, Can, zone 4 & 8.

	States reported	zones
Award of Merit		
Revere	CA	9
Honorable Mention		
Bewitchment	CA	9
Secondhand Rose	VA	6
Bride's Blush	CA	8
Frosted Rose	CA	8
Grand Circle	CA	8
Sierra Mist	AZ, CA, ID, MI, TX	6, 7, 8, 9
Frere Andre	CA, WA	8
Heidi Alaina	CA	9
Mariposa Wizard IB	CA, MI	6A, 8
Fast Forward IB	CA, IN, NE, OH, TX, WA	5, 7, 8, 9
Shout SDB	ОН	5, 6, 8
Ahwahnee Princess S	DB CA	8
Cache of Gold SDB	CA	8
Rosalie Loving SDB	VA	6
Fission Chips MDB	OR	8
Pokemon MDB	CA	9

Reblooming Iris in Kansas and Oregon By Nancy Price

My very brief iris growing history began in the mid 90s in Garden City, Kansas. My first iris plantings were obtained via a newspaper advertisement and included a variety of historics. A few years later, a magazine advertisement introduced me to Schreiner's Garden. By 1997 I was becoming bored with gardening, including irises. To turn this attitude around, I attended an iris exhibition, joined AIS and the local affiliate group a year later.

I assumed I would learn lots of information about growing iris better, but I did not learn as much as I thought due from an iris club. I was taught that if a person can grow a very good variety of iris in Kansas, then that same iris should be able to be grown almost anywhere else in the world. I was also told what I could not grow in Kansas – Louisianas, Siberians, Japanese and Rebloomers were on that list. Of course I tried to grow all varieties of iris, including Arilbreds, a few Siberians in afternoon shady areas, Louisianas in bogs, a couple of Japanese and several reblooming bearded iris varieties.

To avoid sounding arrogant, I'll just say I had many experiences in the World of Iris in a very short amount of time. Included was an opportunity to move from SW Kansas to "iris heaven" in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Again, I made an assumption that I could just grow irises even better living in Oregon. Of my 900+ cultivars, I needed to downsize to about 300. Of those, I concentrated on newer varieties of bearded iris, Siberians, and bearded rebloomers.

It did not take me long to discover that "iris heaven" has it's own unique plant growing challenges also. There are several differences between SW Kansas and Oregon. There are microclimates within many states. So when referring to geography, I speak of the SW Kansas area and the Willamette Valley of Oregon only.

In Kansas, the soil pH is high. The southwest part of Kansas is blessed with an average rainfall of 5 inches per year, with most of the underground water traveling along limestone rock from the northern states. In contrast, the Willamette Valley of Oregon often receives about 50 inches of rainfall annually, most of which falls between the months of October and May. June through September are almost free of any significant rainfall. The soil pH is more acid.

Another contrast between SW Kansas and the Oregon Valley is the temperatures. SW Kansas again is blessed. During the summer months the temperatures are typically greater than 87 degrees for 100 days in a row and greater than 100 degrees for more than 30 days in succession. Winters can begin with a frost as early as September, an Indian summer for a couple of weeks in November and a hard freeze shortly afterwards. February and March are especially lovely with -20 and -30 degree temperatures and winds gusting to 50 miles per hour. Pumila iris love these "cool" temperatures and may actually perform better than in parts of the Valley. Spring may start in April, but late hard freezes and blizzards have a way of destroying the Sunday park picnics.

In contrast, the temperatures in the Valley are mild. I never understood what a long growing season was until I experienced it in the Valley. During the summer, the average temperature is 85 degrees. There may be a couple of weeks greater than 100 degrees. As fall approaches, the temperatures gradually decrease with lows expected during the winter months at 35 degrees. About every 3 years, there might be an ice

storm or a day or two of snow. Then by March the temperatures gradually begin to climb to the expected 60-70 degrees during the iris bloom season. This longer growing season allows for greater increase in rhizomes during the first year after planting; thus, stalks and first year blooms can be enjoyed. More often than not, gardeners in Kansas must wait two years to see their first iris blooms.

Besides pH, rainfall, and temperatures, soil and its nutrients play a significant role in growing plants, including iris flowers. SW Kansas has an abundance of phosphorus naturally in the soil. The Valley soil is leached of nitrogen easily. Both areas need to replenish nutrients annually, with spring amendments to aid the bloom season and again after the bloom to encourage the rhizome development. It is particularly necessary to fertilize twice when expecting the plant to grace the grower with a second or continuous bloom that year. It is always best to test the soil before adding any amendments. Consulting with a local extension agency is advisable.

I cannot travel anywhere without irisarians complaining about their hard clay soil. I do the same thing, sometimes. The clay soil in SW Kansas is different than the clay soil in the Valley. I was always afraid to water the iris too much and cause rhizome rot. This is easy to do in Kansas because water just sits atop the soil and remains "muddy" for a long time even after soil amendings have been done. I used to tell customers to concentrate on watering the soil instead of watering the iris. Because of poor soil drainage, they seemed to understand that statement better. In contrast, the clay soil in the Valley seems to be like a sponge. The soil seems to "suck" in the water rapidly and hold it, forming a nice thick crust and allowing the rhizomes to use what they need as they need it. Rotting is a bigger problem after a long winter of flooding in the Valley than the winter in Kansas.

Another area of contrast where Kansas beats the Valley hands down is the pests and diseases and weeds. WEEDS – so many plants of all kinds can be grown in the Valley – the good, bad, and ugly – including WEEDS. In Kansas, I cleaned the iris beds well in the spring and they were almost weed free all summer long. Not in the Valley – weed pulling and spraying is done year round. Besides rhizome rot and leaf spot (in both Kansas and Oregon), the biggest killer of iris in Kansas was scorch. In Oregon, I was introduced to gophers that have not learned to distinguish an iris from a weed. There are also moles that think the iris need an extra 4 inches of soil on the rhizome. Iris borers were not a problem in either Kansas or Oregon.

I spent a few minutes searching through my lists of reblooming iris that I grew in Kansas and now in Oregon, expecting to see major differences. I did not notice much difference at all. I did not keep good notes of the Siberian rebloom and will share only what I remember of the bearded rebloom varieties. Givens include the planting of reblooming bearded iris in 2001 and 2002, a longer growing season in Kansas, lifting clumps to move them to a temporary bed in Oregon in 2003, moving many of them again in 2004 and 2005. Many of the rebloomers will be moved again in 2007. Replanting clumps every 2-3 years is strongly encouraged. In both Kansas and Oregon, the reblooming irises were given an inch of water weekly. Watering seems to be the one most important task that encourages an iris with rebloom potential to perform.

The first rebloomer I planted was LOW HO SILVER (Byers, 1989, IB). Although it threw a bloom stalk every month even in Kansas, I was not impressed with the bunched up buds and flowering that formed a mess of mush along the stalk. I was told this is the only thing to expect of a rebloomer. I later found out that was a falsehood. There are rebloomers with great stalks and lovely branching and good bud count even in Kansas. One example that comes to mind immediately is FROST ECHO (Aitken, 1995, TB). My iris beds were dug and grass planted around all sides of the beds. This meant weekly watering of the grass and iris in the bed at the same time using a low spray onto the lower part of the plant and the rhizome. I

purposely planted a reblooming iris on the corner of one bed where it would receive two inches of water every week. That iris was Frost Echo. It bloomed in May as expected with many stalks and buds. It then rebloomed in July unexpectedly, and yet a third time in early fall. When relocated back into Oregon soil, it did not receive as much water weekly during the summer and only rebloomed in the fall.

In Kansas I lived in the city on a normal sized lot; thus, I did not have much room for growing iris that may or may not rebloom. Reading articles that included the name of rebloomers helped me make wise selections for my own garden. I read about the iris ANXIOUS (Hager, 1992, TB) being a lilac flower with persistent rebloom. Again, I purposely planted this iris in a corner position and it received two inches of water also. The first spring there was no bloom, as expected with any iris in Kansas. There was also no rebloom. That next spring there was again no bloom. That fall the second year after replanting, Anxious bloomed and bloomed with many stalks and flowers. I was delighted. The third spring there were few stalks although plenty of new rhizomes, then no other performance from this variety so I chose not to bring it to Oregon.

I think some rebloomers get a bit mixed up. Besides Anxious, another example I think of is PHANTASY IN PINK (Messick, 1999, TB). PIP is not listed as a rebloomer in the Checklist, nor did it rebloom for me in Kansas, but bloomed almost continually in 2005 in Oregon. It did not bloom in 2006, perhaps due to bloom out the fall before.

IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg, 1982, TB) was difficult in my garden. It wanted to rot even after being moved. It did rebloom year two, but rotted again year three. It was another iris I chose not to bring to Oregon, but have since obtained another rhizome and it is growing well.

CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE (Niswonger, 1986, TB) threw one rebloom stalk one year. It was later in the year and the cold temperatures came before the bloom. This is one variety of reblooming iris that is an excellent choice if your area will allow the longer bloom season. BEST BET (Schreiners, 1988, TB) is another iris that might need extra growing time for that rebloom. Again, all I got to see in Kansas was a stalk starting. It has rebloomed in Oregon. A third iris with similar expectations is BREAKERS (Schreiners, 1986, TB). STELLAR LIGHTS (Aitken, 1986, TB) did not rebloom for me in Kansas but performed well in Oregon.

BLATANT (Byers, 1990, TB) and CRUISE TO AUTUMN (Lauer, 2001, TB) were late in the spring bloomers. After I got to see the lovely flowers open, I added their names to the list of rebloomers to take to Oregon. I do not know how they would perform in Kansas as rebloomers, but they are very dependable in the Valley. Blatant has yellow standards and magenta falls. Cruise To Autumn is cinnamon with lavender veining with brown rims on the falls.

Some dependable tall bearded rebloomers in both Kansas and Oregon included: ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew, 1993, TB) deep dark purple, CLARENCE (Zurbrigg, 1991, TB) a light blue, SUKY (Mahan, 1991, TB) violet, EGYPTIAN (Byers, 1988, TB) tan with violet hints standard and white falls with deep red violet stitched edge, ISTANBUL (Byers, 1990, TB) yellow standards and white falls with red-purple stripes, LICHEN (Byers, 1989, TB) light grey infused light green, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS (Byers, 1989, TB) a magenta violet blend, MARIPOSA AUTUMN (Tasco, 1999, TB) rosy violet plicata, MARIPOSA SKIES (Tasco, 1996, TB), CANTINA (Byers, 1990, TB) a lovely red violet and one of my favorites, ZURICH (Byers, 1989, TB) ruffled white, SUMMER HOLIDAYS (Zurbrigg, 1979, TB) blue-violet self, DAUGHTERS OF STARS (Spoon, 2001, TB) and TWILIGHT FANCIES (Zurbrigg, 2001, TB) bicolor violet.

GOLDEN IMMORTAL (Sutton, 1997, TB) bright golden yellow with white around cadmium beards and QUEEN DOROTHY (Hall, 1984, TB) were a couple of favorite rebloomers in Kansas. A few historic rebloomers that others enjoyed in Kansas included AUTUMN TWILIGHT (Brown, 1971, TB), WHITE AUTUMN KING (Sass, 1935, IB) AUTUMN ELF (Brown, 1935, IB) and SOUTHLAND (Sass, 1934, SDB). If historic rebloomers are your choice of iris to grow, I suggest POLAR KING (Donahue, 1939, TB). It bloomed for three weeks in Kansas, has rebloomed in Oregon, and is considered to be an excellent cold weather rebloomer.

MATRIX (Hall, 1991, TB) cream with pale cinnamon veining and near white falls with creamy yellow rim, I DO (Zurbrigg, 1974, TB) near white, PINK ATTRACTION (Hall, 1988, TB) flared and ruffled soft innocent pink, and FROST ECHO (Aitken, 1995, TB) pale lavender bloomed fall 2003 in Oregon after being planted in July that year. All four of these have been dependable rebloomers in both Kansas and Oregon. AUTUMN JESTER (Chapman, 2000, SDB) and SAILBOAT BAY (Zurbrigg, 2001, SDB) are two median rebloomers I liked in Kansas and they bloomed in the fall 2003 in Oregon also.

A few other dependable median rebloomers that performed well in Kansas and in Oregon included: BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg, 1979, SDB), CLAIRE DOODLE (Nearpass, 2000, MTB), EMMA DOODLE (Nearpass, 1999, MTB), CONCERTINA (Sutton, 2000, IB) a rose-pink self with dark violet blue horn and a favorite of mine, FLIRTING AGAIN (Aitken, 2002, SDB), FOREVER BLUE (Chapman, 1997, SDB), LADY EMMA (Jones, 1986, MTB), and WHAT AGAIN (Ensminger, 1991, SDB).

A few newer introductions that are reblooming in our garden this year that deserve some attention include: DOUBLE OVERTIME (Tasco, 2005, IB) LOVE GOES ON (Spoon, 2004, BB), MARIPOSA WIZ-ARD (Tasco, 2004, IB), OZARK REBOUNDER (Nicodemus, 2003, TB), RETURN TO BAYBERRY (Sutton, 2005, TB) and TWIGGY (Spoon, 2004, BB). The 2006 rebloom reporting for these thus far are: DO July 30, LGO July 18 and October 6, MW August 13, OR August 13, RTB August 23, and Twiggy started blooming July 22 and was still throwing stalks on August 23.

A few other 2006 rebloom reports include: HER ROYAL HIGHNESS - July 25 and August 25, TWI-LIGHT FANCIES - August 9 and October 6, SUMMER HOLIDAYS - August 9 and October 7, AU-TUMN JESTER - July 10 and October 5, FOREVER BLUE – July 8 and August 1, AUTUMN SURGE - July 10 and October 5, Again and Again - July 21 and October 6, CRUISE TO AUTUMN - August 22 and October 6.

Keeping the Dream Alive

By Mike Lockatell

The late Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's vision for bearded iris rebloom reached an important zenith in 2004. After customary spring bloom in early May, the second phase of the color parade in my bearded plantings began in earnest at the end of July. A hard frost in early November finally put an end to this historic show. Rebloom had lasted an incredible three plus months in Central VA!!

Weather conditions in the Mid Atlantic Region were near perfect that year to initiate this appealing iris trait. Doc was thrilled with the endless bloom performance on some of his best past introductions and promising seedlings. This information enabled Lloyd to ponder some new directions for his decades long breeding lines. Life threatening medical woes for both Lloyd and myself quickly ended the euphoria over fall flower results.

A test undertaken prior to his last fall visit to Richmond revealed the long time Region 4 hybridizer had an advanced stage cancer. After weighing the treatment options, Lloyd and his wife Nita decided to let the disease run its course. I received my own piece of bad news two days after Christmas. An existing spot on my back was positive for skin cancer. If the cancer cells had reached the lymph nodes, Doc and I would have shared similar medical outlooks. A subsequent biopsy of my lymph nodes proved to be negative. I however needed three months to recover from the surgery to remove this aggressive melanoma. There is an important lesson to be learned from my experience with skin cancer. Outside of surgical intervention, there are limited treatment options. An immediate appointment with a dermatologist should be made for any questionable moles or skin discolorations.

My former garden was situated on land rented from friends at church. As if news from the dermatologist wasn't bad enough, I received a certified letter the day before surgery to verify an October 1, 2005 deadline to move my 7/8 of an acre worth of bearded and Siberian irises plus extensive plantings of herbaceous peonies. This deadline would prove to be flexible, but I faced a wealth of uphill challenges to accomplish this task.

Lloyd's passing was an early blow to efforts to right a sinking ship. I would be without his guidance and judgments in evaluating seedlings to save or destroy. Dr. Bill Shear helped to fill the void with multiple visits from nearby Farmville during spring bloom. His solicited advice eased some of my anxiety over the decision making process. Most cross-pollination attempts were successful. Despite some interference from verbena bud moth larvae, good seed yields were obtained on a number of important planned combinations for rebloom. For the most part, I was able to act on the majority of Doc's last breeding suggestions.

Digging and potting plants from the old garden proved to be huge job. Two thousand bearded seedlings and named varieties were potted. The Siberian plantings contributed close to eight hundred containers to the total. The herbaceous peony removal was the toughest task of the three. The dividing of four and five year old crowns resembled delicate brain surgery. Hours were spent each day safely splitting a handful of plants. It was truly a race against the clock. Two and three gallon pots were needed for the divisions, so tons of bark mix and soil amendments were used to save my plantings. This operation contributed another two thousand plus containers to the inventory.

As one can imagine, I could not handle this immense project alone. Volunteers materialized at crucial junctures to handle some of the dividing and potting. Susan Menefee, a long time customer and garden advocate spent many summer mornings potting freshly divided and treated rhizomes of bearded iris seedlings and named varieties with me. Members of the Powhatan Garden Club helped keep pots watered during summer and early fall 05 dry spells at the new location. They eventually provided assistance potting hundreds of peony divisions during the late fall and winter months. The Almighty always provides us with the necessary time, energy and resources to get the job done. Miracles can happen!!

The only positive news during spring 05 was finally locating a new site for a temporary garden. A raging real estate market frustrated attempts to find a reasonable piece of ground to buy. Pam Mann, a friend and fellow member of the Powhatan Garden Club found an answer for me with an eleventh hour phone call. Joan and Gabe Cosby agreed to allow me to cultivate a small unused corner of their dairy farm. Gabe's farming experience has been a major source of support and encouragement as I work to pick up the pieces. His farm equipment has also aided me in advancing new bed construction during the current year.

Virgin soil can be a blessing or a curse. Uncultivated ground can have ample nutrition, but texture can be a nagging issue when growing either bearded or Siberian irises. Heavy Central VA red clay soil meant soil modification would have to be pursued in both cases. New plantings are already soaking up enormous amounts of fill soil, coarse grade sand and leaf compost. The existing vegetation cover at the site had been cut for hay for countless years. Some nasty weed problems managed to creep into the planned growing space. I soon discovered significant infestations of yellow nutsedge, wiregrass, sand briar, curly dock and silver crabgrass. There are also ample helpings of summer and winter annual weeds. Chemical intervention worked in some cases, but new germination of existing seed populations has seriously affected planting schedules. On the bright side, there is a spring fed pond adjacent to the garden. As summertime temperatures rose into the high nineties particularly during the month of August, I had sufficient water to keep the potted irises and peonies alive. A future task will be to assemble an automated irrigation system to handle the watering chores. Manual application is not an option!!

Spring germination of 2005 cross-pollinations kept my spirits up. Percentages were good on some of my best ideas. The next step was to transplant the new offspring into 4" pots. My efforts were futile as I lost seedling after seedling to rot. The carnage was devastating. Some of my best combinations for rebloom disappeared as disease ravaged the poor babies. After consulting Keith Keppel and Robin Shadlow on the problem, the remaining seedlings were treated with anti-bacterial soap after transplanting. Little loss was encountered after using this treatment. This experience compels me to try sowing some seed this fall in cell packs. Germinated seedlings will have a chance to develop a stronger root system before future transplanting. The application of anti-bacterial soap after planting will be a further precaution to insure overall success. After all the discouragement, the remaining survivors may prove to be the true "silver lining" to this bleak episode.

As the current season winds down, progress to date gives me a small measure of hope. Potted seedlings from cross-pollinations Lloyd and I made in springs 03 and 04 are finally making their way into the ground. The poor things deserved a better fate than my feeble efforts to cultivate them. The focus of germination and care of the 04 cross-pollinations probably kept me alive during and after my cancer crisis. I don't expect any earth shattering developments from this batch of hopefuls, but there should be a few surprises next spring to define some new breeding angles.

The appearance of bloomstalks on Doc's Sailboat Bay and Gate of Heaven while still growing in pots serves as a living testament to this gentle man's genius and perseverance. Many individual containers of Zurbrigg remontant varieties managed to root to the ground during the growing season. As fall conditions improved, stalks started coming. Flowers on both plants reminded me of visits from long lost friends. I am again alerted to the potential residing in the rows of pots of varying shapes and sizes awaiting installation. If it is in the plan for me, I look forward to distributing and improving upon Lloyd Zurbrigg's favorite plants. The ride is never smooth, but it should prove to be an interesting one. Stay tuned.

'MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM'

by Lowell Baumunk reprinted with permission from Region 20 newletter

There is one fact about 'Midsummer Night's Dream' that I think is truly amazing: It was the first seedling of mine ever to bloom!

1992 was the first spring that irises bloomed in my new garden in Douglas County. I had purchased rhizomes of some recommended new varieties and was intending to make my first attempts at hybridizing. One of my early goals was to work with reblooming irises, and to this purpose I had obtained Schreiner's tall bearded 'Best Bet' and Ensminger's standard dwarf 'What Again', along with several others.

I duly made some SDB crosses in mid-May and was making TB crosses in early June when I was surprised by a very late bloomstalk on 'What Again'. I applied pollen from 'What Again' on a blossom of 'Best Bet' with the idea of getting an intermediate rebloomer. That cross led to a nice seedpod with about 20 fat seeds.

That first year of hybridizing was the only time I started my seeds indoors under lights. Several baby plants from the Best Bet X What Again cross poked through the potting soil in January. All my new seedlings seemed big enough to plant outside by April, and I guess they were, but they were not ready to cope with the bright sun and cold nights. Consequently many of the new seedlings died, but there were about 10 survivors from the reblooming intermediate cross.

Throughout the summer of 1993 the new babies grew rapidly. We must have had a mild autumn that year because I was very pleasantly surprised to find bloom stalks on two plants in October. The weather continued to cooperate as I eagerly awaited the first bloom from a hybrid iris of my own. When it finally opened, it was a smooth dark purple self. Cold temperatures were predicted that night, so I cut the stalk and brought it inside.

Well.... Over the next few years that seedling showed itself to be a dependable midsummer and autumn rebloomer here in Colorado. As I learned more about irises I realized that the deep vibrant color, the lack of haft markings and the wide ruffled form were very positive attributes also. I sent rhizomes to iris growers all across the country and received a lot of positive feedback. Eventually, in 1999, now named 'Midsummer Night's Dream', it became one of my first two iris introductions.

ROSALIE YERKES FIGGE AN AMAZING WOMAN

by Joan Roberts

There are so many positive things to say about Rosalie it is hard to find a starting place. She had so many hidden qualities. Firstly, she was loving and kind to those around her, be it family or friends. She had the ability to make people feel as though they were a very important part of her life. She genuinely cared about so many of us and tried to keep us 'on track.' She didn't hesitate to offer her opinion as well as suggestions to help us with whatever the current crisis happened to be.

Family came first of course but her Secret Garden was her pride and joy. She enjoyed trees, shrubs and perennials almost as much as her irises. Anyone fortunate enough to visit her garden during the '91 National Convention can attest to its beauty as well as her attention to every detail, from an iris trashcan strategically placed so it greeted everyone as they entered, to boiling hot water for tea. The trashcan set the mood and placed so it greeted everyone laughed and really enjoyed being there. A woman from England noted that it was the first time since leaving home that she was able to have really hot water for her tea. She had a way with people and knew leaving home that she was able to have really hot water for her tea. She had a way with people and knew how to get things done. All of her neighbors contributed their finest baked goodies for the tours and the church across the street generously offered their parking lot for the buses and workers.

Iris hybridizers - very important to Rosalie. "After all, without hybridizers we wouldn't have any new irises." And those new irises were even more important to her. She had a childlike quality about her when she received her iris orders. She enjoyed opening the boxes so much that one day I received a large commercial order and she said "don't open the box, I'll be right there and help you mark." She was thrilled to see such a large box filled with hundreds of rhizomes. Some of them were VANITY, her favorite iris. I wasn't allowed to keep too much VANITY. As I said, she had a way with people.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention AUCTIONS. She bid on just about everything, dropping out only if she didn't want a particular thing in the first place. If she really wanted it, she would not give up until she won the prized iris, hosta, bench, cup--anything and everything that struck her fancy. One auction that really stands out was held in Oregon at the Median Fix in '96. They had a "silent" auction. Rosalie sat at the table right under the auctioneer and he didn't see her nod, raise her hand or wave at him. She had just about enough of this and said so. That ended the "silent" part of the auction and Rosalie walked out with her purse a lot lighter.

She had it all worked out in her mind how she would take her treasures home - in my empty suitcase (which had been full of catalogs to be handed out at the convention) BUT I had my own plans for that suitcase (filled it with native plants). When she found out that the suitcase wasn't empty, she was aghast. "Well, we will just have to get a cab and visit that Mall we passed on the way." Off to the Mall - returning with a larger suitcase than she carried for all of her clothing!

Rosalie always carried back-up alarm clocks so she would be on time for the tour bus. One morning the first alarm went off at 4:30 a.m. At the time I didn't see the humor in the fact that we had to be first on the bus.

A frequent traveler, Rosalie went with Mary Brown to England. While they were in the Heathrow Airport they sent their luggage through the security check. A guard heard one of Rosalie's suitcases ticking. Mary said the guards descended upon them and had them under house arrest until they investigated, only to find out that Rosalie had 3 alarm clocks ticking. Needless to say it was a good thing it was pre nine-eleven.

Fortunately Rosalie had a good sense of humor. She enjoyed telling jokes and didn't mind being the object of funny Rosalie stories. She loved Clarence Mahan and would laugh and laugh when he told stories about her. He teased her unmercifully and the more he teased the more she laughed.

Rosalie also had a very capable and serious side. Many years ago (probably in the sixties) she was Editor of the Reblooming Iris Recorder. When I first joined the Iris Society in 1987, she was President of Francis Scott Key Iris Society. As a parliamentarian, she served on the local, regional and sometimes when needed, national level. When Rosalie was in her eighties, she was President of the Reblooming Iris Society. Most recently (at level, when Rosalie was in her eighties, she was President of the Reblooming Iris Society. Most recently (at level, when Rosalie was in her eighties, she was President of the Reblooming Iris Society. Most recently (at level, when Rosalie was in her eighties, she was Still driving a car, had a Fax machine, copier, two computers and was very active on the internet.

Rosalie enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest. She is missed.

RECORD OF IRIS REBLOOM

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As soon as you feel that your garden will have no more rebloom, please send this report to your area director. They are listed on the reverse side of this page.

REGION DIRECTORS

EASTERN
REGIONS 3,4,7, and 19
Joan Roberts
341 Schwartz Rd
Gettysburg, PA 17325-8622
Joan@supernet.com

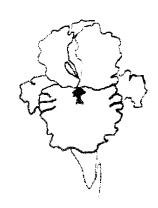
MIDWESTERN
REGIONS 6,8,9,18 and 21
Tim Stanek
23329 Ellington Ave
Glenwood, IA 51534
Tjstanek@aol.com

NORTHWESTERN
REGIONS 11,12,13, and 20
Dave Silverberg
32009 Ona Way
Molalla, OR 97038
sil1812@molalla.net

NORTHEASTERN
REGIONS 1,2,and 16
Emily Ives
1077 Guertin Ave.
Ottawa, Ont. Canada K1 H8 B3;
orris@rogers.com

SOUTHERN
REGIONS 5,10,17,23, and 24
Charlie Brown
3114 S. FM 131
Denison, TX 75020-0724
broiris@cableone.net

SOUTHWESTERN
REGIONS 14, 15, and 22
George Sutton
16592 Road 208
Portervill, CA 93257-9011
suttons@lightspeed.net



RIS SYMPOSIUM

We'd like to have your votes for your favorite rebloomers. Please vote for irises that rebloom for you, or that you have seen rebloom in your area.

Please send to George Sutton by October 31, 2006.

Tall Bearded	
	Medians
	

Beardless	Arii, MBD, Species
	Mail to: George Sutton 16592 Road 208 Porterville, CA 93257 info@suttoniris.com
	Please send your votes by October 31
	-

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Memories of Rosalie

Clarence Mahan

My wife Suky and I adored Rosalie Figge from the first time we met her. Our friendship grew with the years and she came to be my closest advisor and confidant. During my tenure as president of the American Iris Society and of the Reblooming Iris Society, I often called her to get advice on difficult problems and to receive her wise counsel. She never failed me.

Rosalie was a woman of selective but intense passions. She loved the American Iris Society, the Reblooming Iris Society and the Francis Scott Key Iris Society. She loved knowledge and education. She was an adamant defender of women's rights and freedom of choice. She was devoted to her daughters and her grandchildren. She often took a grandchild along when she traveled abroad to broaden the child's education. She loved youth and did much to promote youth activities in the various iris groups to which she belonged.

Rosalie's husband Frank Figge was a well-known medical research scientist, and Rosalie helped him by maintaining his laboratory equipment and feeding and breeding his research mice and keeping their cages clean. Rosalie was a widow for many years and I once asked her if she had ever considered remarriage. Her daughters thought this very amusing. They told me that their parents were always like two love-struck teenagers. They even had their own special language and secret communication system. The idea that she could ever consider romance with another man was the source of much laughter. She had known great love and could never be satisfied with less.

Many people in AIS were recipients of Rosalie's kindness and favors. She tended those she "adopted" as a mother hen looks after her chicks. She treated Sterling Innerst, Paul Stewart, Ken Roberts and me as though we were her sons. She loved Joan Roberts, Carol Warner and Jane McKnew. Before Jane's untimely death Jane named one of her finest seedlings 'Rosalie Figge,' and that gorgeous reblooming iris now graces gardens all over the world.

Rosalie loved her garden. An elderly black man did gardening work for her for many years. If you dropped by her garden on a sunny afternoon it would not be unusual to see Rosalie in her eighties and her elderly gardener out weeding or cleaning. As the years passed, the gardener became increasingly enfeebled. I recall on one visit it seemed that Rosalie was his assistant as she helped him from one bed to another, bringing his tools to him when he could not manage to carry them. After her elderly gardener died, Rosalie often hired local college boys to do gardening work. I took delight in teasing her by noting that she chose only the best built, best looking fellows. She knew I was teasing but she would still blush like a schoolgirl.

As I finished a draft chapter for my book Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them, I would send it via the Internet to Rosalie. Within a week or so I would get a phone call from Rosalie asking me if I had time to take notes on her comments, suggestions and corrections. Then we would spend an hour or two going through the draft chapter paragraph by paragraph. Before the book was completed she had made thousands of suggested changes, nearly all of which were adopted. Sometimes after I rewrote a chapter I would send it back to her and we would go through the process again.

I began another book to be titled *Japanese Irises: One-Hundred Woodblock Prints* early in 2006. Before Rosalie died she gave me editorial suggestions on two chapters. The week Rosalie died her daughter Barbara sent me a red-inked copy of a draft chapter that Rosalie had worked on in the hospital. Not even her impending death could stop her from doing a favor for a friend.

When I think of Rosalie I recall her standing in her garden in Towson, Maryland, in early May. She is surrounded by the fragrance of tall lilacs and myriads of lily of the valley. The dwarf irises are in bloom. Many of those dwarf irises are rebloomers and, if you are new to the iris society, Rosalie will make certain you know which ones bloom in the autumn as well as in the spring. That was always one of her missions in life.

How does one capture the impish smile, the mischief in her eye, the humor in her heart? How does one describe the brave soul, the capacious heart, the spirit filled with adventure? Only inadequately, I fear. Of one thing I am sure. I shall miss Rosalie every day of my remaining life.

Rosalie Yerkes Figge

by Ron Mullen

A tribute to Rosalie Figge cannot possibly do justice to the memory of this wonderful lady. Rosalie loved life, and she loved people, and if they were from an area different from her own, she liked them more. She could learn something new by talking with them. And, learning was most important to Rosalie. Iris conventions and garden tours were a total pleasure for her. Her enjoyment of them made them more enjoyable for others too. No matter what the weather or the difficulty of getting around in the garden, Rosalie enjoyed it.

I first met Rosalie in 1979 in Huntsville. At that time, Region 4 had no affiliates, and a group of people from the region wanted to visit with me about that and things that would help increase membership. They chose me because I was Membership Secretary and because my region was one of the very lively ones.

At a dinner we discussed several things, but Rosalie announced that it was not enough. I was to go to Region 4 and talk some more. The Francis Scott Key Society convinced Region 3 that they should have a judging school and the two could share expenses. I was taken on an educational tour of the Baltimore area, and I stayed at Rosalie's house. Lovely antique furniture was in every room, and books of all kinds filled the shelves. Rosalie was intelligent, fun, and a great hostess; she gave you space and time alone. We looked at her garden, and she told me she often worked by using a miner's hat. I chuckled at that, but she said it was cooler after sundown, and the neighbor's dog didn't bark after dark.

Rosalie was inquisitive about Oklahoma, my Native American heritage, my job as a teacher, and my knowledge of irises. The thing that seemed to interest her the most was the story of how Oklahoma became the Sooner state.

Friends were a treasure to Rosalie, and I was lucky to be one of them. She called often and talked at length. One never realized that the call was a long one, because it was always an interesting one. She wrote letters, sent cards, and always let you know that she cared about your well being.

Rosalie's friends were often from both sides of a controversy, but that was because she felt everyone could have his or her own opinion without it affecting her friendship with them. She was a diplomat.

I really loved Rosalie, and I know she was my friend. She will be missed, and I will, at every convention, miss getting those calls to "see if you are here and to make sure we don't miss each other." And, I'll think of the miner's hat with a smile. I'll also remember Rosalie boarding a bus, soaking wet, with a strand of hair across her face saying, "Some of those irises can really take the rain. I'll have to remember their names because my notebook didn't do as well as they." Few of us do as well as Rosalie in our dealings with others or in our iris work.

A Friendship Treasured

Robin Shadlow

I was so very fortunate to get to know Rosalie, not just at the conventions but also as a friend. She was one of the very first people that I met in Memphis. And when I volunteered to be the RIS editor, I didn't know that not only did I get to be in on all of the most current information- but I would get many opportunities to talk to Rosalie.

Whenever you got off the phone with Rosalie, you couldn't help but be happy. She had so much fun and energy. And her intelligent conversations about so many subjects taught me a great deal. Even though she was twice my age -we were blessed, neither of us noticed it one bit.

She had wanted to go to Fresno for the convention so badly. Her doctors were adamant that she could not fly that distance, and she did finally concede. More than anything she regretted not being able to see Sutton's garden. I did my best to tell her about everything I saw there.

Over the years, Rosalie kept records of rebloom reports across the country. She collected all of the information and kept tabs on all of the reports made on iris-talk and iris-photos. Just three weeks before her death, she was on the phone with me helping with the checklist update. Fortunately all of her work is safe and we will be working on the checklist more this winter.

I will always remember Rosalie for her dedication to the Reblooming Iris Society. She spent countless hours over the years, held office and served as editor for many years. She was the glue that kept everything together over the years. There is great interest in rebloomers among young hybridizers and the years ahead should make Rosalie proud.

But most of all I will remember how Rosalie lived and I hope to follow her example. If you don't act old and quit on life, you can be young on the inside all your days. And every day can be an adventure!

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Single Triennial	\$18.00
Family Annual	\$8.00
Family Triennial	\$21.00

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prices for black and white contact the editor if interested in color

Indiana Rebloom

as reported by Mary Lou Swann-Young, near Indianapolis, Z5

Rebloom was frozen out in mid-October this year, a month earlier than usual. The whole month was 10-15 degrees below normal, with nighttime lows well below freezing by the 13th. My folks' place, in southwestern Indiana, escaped the worst of it. November rebloom listed occurred there.

Again And Again - July, August, Sept., October Amain - September, October, November Autumn Circus - October Autumn Grandeur - October Autumn Tryst - October Baby Blessed SDB - August, October Billionaire - October Bernice's Legacy - August, October Blue Moonlight - October Bolder Boulder - October Bountiful Harvest - October, November Champagne Encore IB - September, October City Lights - September, October Double Shot - October Earl Of Essex - October, November Fast Forward IB - July, August, Sept., October Feed Back - September, October Hemstitched - October Immortality - September, October Luminosity - October, November Midsummer Night's Dream IB - August Misty Twilight - October Next In Line - September, October Pink Attraction - August, September, October Precious Little Pink IB - July, August, October Priscilla Of Corinth - October Redelta - October Rosalie Figge - October Saxon - October September Frost - October Sugar Blues - October Sunny Disposition - October Total Recall - August, October, November Wright Flyer - October

Fall Bloom Only

Barn Dance - October - planted in 05
Broken Link - October - planted in 06
Constant Companion IB - October - planted in 06
Dashing - October - planted in 05
Lady Essex - October - planted in 06
Recurring Delight - October - planted in 05
September Frost - October - planted in 05
Tenderly - August, Sept., October - planted in 05
Twilight Fancies - October - planted in 05

A few of my most reliable rebloomers were conspicuously absent from the report. Clarence, Jennifer Rebecca, Bonus Mama and Speeding Again got pretty well decimated by donations to sales and giving to friends, relatives and neighbors. Can find no excuse for Pinkness and Renown.

Fall Show Results Region 3&4

Queen of Show - Zurich Exhibited by Dr. Bruce Hornstein

MTB - Lady Emma
Exhibited by Claudette Boudeaux

SDB - Baby Blessed Exhibited by Anita Moran

TB - Lunar Mist Exhibited by Jerry Coats

BB - Liquid Amber Exhibited by Ray Jones

for the winners' photos see the inside back cover

Rebloom in Kentucky 2006

As reported by Betty Wilkerson Zone 6 South Central KY

A three night freeze stopped rebloom in it's tracks beginning Oct 13. Many stalks have shown themselves since, only to be cut down with yet another freeze. I make no attempt to grow all rebloomers and many were handicapped in various ways.

I've always enjoyed the way Richard Richards (CA) gives his rebloom reports in the Recorder and this year I've tried to follow his form. (below) These were all TB's.

Close to three dozen seedlings bloomed June through Oct 13, but they are not listed here.

June:

Arctic Encore Immortality Renown

July:

Again & Again
All Revved Up (all months except Sept)
Diamond Blush
Immortality
Lord of Rings
Lunar Whitewash
October Sky
Pink Attraction
Pure As Gold
Renown (same stalk)
Violet Miracle

August:

Again & Again All Revved Up Frere Andre Luminosity Pink Attraction

September:

Immortality
Over and Over

October: (First two weeks) (Freeze started Oct 13.)

Another Bridge
Daughter of Stars
Luminosity
Lunar Whitewash
Pink Attraction
Star Gate
Violet Miracle

Many produced stalks after 10-15, but none were able to grow enough to bloom. Included in this group are Matrix, October Splendor and Lemon Reflection.

Had the stalks on Lemon Reflection matured it would have rivaled spring bloom!

www.rebloomingiris.com

Early History of Reblooming Irises

Clarence Mahan's book Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them (Krieger Publishing Company, 2006) has a number of interesting facts relating to the early history of reblooming irises. This excerpt from the chapter titled "Demi-Deuil: the Story of Fernand Denis":

Denis wrote an article for the April 1927 Bulletin of the American Iris Society titled "Everblooming Irises." He predicted that reblooming iris seedlings could be obtained by crossing Andrè's dwarf irises 'Jean Siret' and 'Lieutenant de Chavagnac' with tall bearded iris cultivars. Because the dwarf and tall bearded irises bloom at different times, Denis explained how the pollen of the dwarfs could be saved in airtight tubes previously heated to eliminate moisture. He noted that he had successfully used pollen kept for up to four months in his orchid breeding. Interestingly, a few years after Denis's article was published, Hans Sass in Nebraska began introducing reblooming intermediate irises, such as 'Southland', that he had obtained in precisely the way Denis predicted.

Another example of early reblooming iris history in Clarence's book is this excerpt from the chapter titled "Oriflamme: the Lévêque de Vilmorin Legacy':

The Vilmorin iris that most impressed John Wister at the 1922 conference was 'Alliés'. 'Alliés', if it still exists, has deep violet-rose standards, shaded coppery-brown. Its falls are rich, velvety red-violet and they are shaded even deeper—almost black—at the edges. It has a rich yellow beard. 'Alliés' was the first truly outstanding reblooming iris—it often bloomed in autumn as well as in spring. Seraphin Mottet had great hopes that 'Alliés' would be the forerunner of a new race of tall bearded irises that would bloom twice a year. Mottet's dream has come true, but, alas, we seem to have lost 'Alliés' in the process. 'Alliés', a triploid iris and apparently infertile, made no genetic contribution to the magnificent reblooming iris cultivars we have today.

Seraphin Mottet was the director of the nursery operation of Vilmorin-Andrieux et Cie, the French firm that introduced many of the world's finest irises in the first three decades of the 20th century. John Wister, of course, was the first president of the American Iris Society.

Clarence Mahan's book Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them can be purchased for at a special price through the AIS Storefront for a limited time.

In Memoriam

Keith Chadwick

Keith was a frequent contributor to the Recorder and his hybridizing efforts have provided many irises that rebloom throughout the country. He will be missed.

The Gem State Iris Society has sent the RIS a contribution in Keith Chadwick's memory

Reblooming Iris

Resource List

AITKEN'S SALMON CREEK GARDEN

608 NW 119th St Vancouver, WA 98685 (360) 573-4472 email: aitken@flowerfantasy.net webpage: www.flowerfantasy.net

8 MILE GROVE

Timothy Stanek
23329 Ellington Ave
Glenwood, IA 51534
Tjstanek@aol.com
send self addressed stamped
envelope for a pricelist

SUPERSTITION IRIS GARDENS

Rick Tasco/Roger Duncan
2536 Old Highway (Dept. RIS)
Cathey's Valley, CA 95306-9708
phone 209-966-6277
email: randrcv@sierratel.com
photo site:
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SUTTON'S IRIS GARDENS

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Lunar Whitewash

FATE

Mary Lou Swann-Young

The iris are lovely for three weeks in May But the peonies upstage them almost every day

Stalks in August, September, October, Oh my! bring forth shock and awe from folks driving by

They don't always make it Sometimes they get frozen That's why every year finds more early ones chosen

Rebloom is the future not iris that bloom once We just need more branching, more form and more substance

We know we can do it We just don't know when we'll make more that will bloom like Again And Again

Oh yes! We will do it And as soon as we do they will surely breed peonies that will rebloom too

The Curtain Rises on Late Rebloom in Central VA

By Mike Lockatell

Another abnormally hot and dry summer crashed the bearded iris rebloom party in Central VA. Rolling droughts from May through September were a major culprit hampering necessary plant development. The die was cast after no rainfall was recorded in the Richmond area for August. During the same time period, daytime temps soared into the high nineties on a daily basis. Despite the mounting obstacles, fall flower was indeed found in some precincts. Pesky mid October hard freezes put a "lid" on any further serious bloom momentum. Remontant advocates like myself can only sigh and shake our heads, "Wait til Next Year!!"

There were a few early developments to offer some hope for the future. The late Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg seedling PP 61 was placed in Lois Rose's garden in Partlow, VA to evaluate its rebloom potential. After sending up a spring bloomstalk, the current FAIS president found three forming in mid to late June. Even though it is a purple self, Lois was impressed with its vigor. The pod parent of PP61 is a sib to 'Season of Mists' (Zurbrigg 02). The latter iris was found in bloom at Friendship Garden during the recent Region 4 Fall Meeting. The (Renown x Sunny Shoulders) combination encouraged strong rebloom this year.

The star of the rebloom season was 'Lunar Whitewash'. This 03 release by PA's Sterling Innerst has two Ben Hager remontants behind it. The combination of 'Bonus Mama '(90) and 'Twice Delightful' (88) created another potentially reliable white self. Mary Prozinski and Lois Rose of FAIS had summer bloomstalks. Betty Wilkerson, a fellow member of the Triple R Rebloom Robin, mentioned in correspondence the same results in her Kentucky garden. This relative newcomer's parentage and recent performance should spark some new distribution and use in remontant breeding programs.

Innerst also deserves accolades for the continued fine showings of his 'Again and Again '(99) and 'Over and Over' (00). The later is the reverse cross of Lloyd Zurbrigg's 'Garden Club Delight' (97) and 'Renown' (92). A nice clump of this lavender plicata was detected in full bloom on multiple stalks during my mid October visit to Rosalie and Jack Loving's King George, VA garden. Likewise, the Lovings were seeing consistent fall flower on 'Again and Again.' This medium yellow continues to rack up points in yearly reliability in gardens around Region 4. Rosalie and Jack were gone for the balance of the growing season on a cross-country trip to the AIS National Convention, Canada and Alaska, so the iris plantings received minimal care. Remarkable results!!

Sporadic rebloom was reported on a number of Zurbrigg remontants. Mary Prozinski found mid summer bloom on 'Clarence' (90). 'Renown' (92) was flowering in Griff Crump's Alexandria, VA garden in mid October. Ladies from the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club discovered bloomstalks in pots purchased from me after a late September speaking appearance. Lois Rose found color on buds of 'Garden Club Delight' before an early November freeze ruined the developing flowers. Asib to 'Renown,' this violet plicata may prove to be a late season rebloomer under the right growing conditions.

I had emerging stalks in pots rooted to the ground by mid October on 'Sunny Disposition' (89), 'Grace Thomas' (79), 'Northward Ho' (90) and 'Gate of Heaven' (04) at my Powhatan County garden. The latter two were brought back to my South Richmond home for garden club exhibiting. Stalks turned in weeks of memorable bloom. 'Gate of Heaven' has light medium blue flowers, but different shadings of violet borrowed from its 'Clarence' heritage appear in varying fall light exposures. A major plus for Lloyd's last

introduction is a sweet fragrance.

Zurbrigg medians had their "flower moments" this fall. There were multiple reports of Doc's creamy white IB, 'I Bless' (84) in bloom. Lloyd's award winning SDB 'Baby Blessed' (79) was found in full flower on a clump in the Lovings' backyard median bed. This cute dwarf 's light yellow coloring is a perennial multiple bloomer in most Region 4 gardens in a normal year. Another recent Zurbrigg SDB to watch is 'Sailboat Bay' (01). Even though the parentage was lost for this pleasing white and medium blue, it had multiple stalks in pots rooted to the ground in Powhatan. Bloom lasted for weeks in these containers brought home for exhibit. If I can get this recent Zurbrigg introduction back into the ground before winter, I look forward to its distribution to a wider audience.

Originations from the late Monty Byers made the grade during the fall season too!! Lois Rose had repeated bloom on 'Buckwheat' (88). This yellow long time remontant flowered for Lois during July, August and September. It was preparing to open again in early November before frost ended the show. Griff Crump mentioned mid October flower in Alexandria on 'Eternal Bliss' (87). This Byers tall bearded has ruffled violet blooms with tangerine beards.

Rose and Crump reported bloom on Brad Kasperek's 'Rhea Peerz' (98). This yellow intermediate has Lloyd Zurbrigg's 'Grace Thomas' as its pod parent. George Sutton's 'Double Shot' (99) was in bloom at the Region 4 Fall Meeting. It has sanded violet blue standards and white heavily stripped violet blue falls. Lois mentioned rebloom in the FAIS Newsletter on 'Queen Dorothy' (Hall 84) and MTB 'Lady Emma' (Jones 85). 'Rosalie Figge' (91) also turned in credible rebloom at a number of locations. Bobbie Mooney had some show quality stalks on a clump in her Charlottesville, VA garden. They however bloomed in between garden club meetings depriving her of certain blue ribbons. I was fortunate to find some bloomstalks in pots. The examples were very helpful in advocating rebloom at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market and at various local garden club appearances. Finally Griff had summer rebloom on award winner, 'Midsummer Night's Dream' (98). This Lowell Baumunk dark purple intermediate bloomed towards the end of July in his garden.

Griffin Crump has some interesting seedlings in the pipeline. He brought a stalk of his vigorous 20A9 SDB Seedling to the FAIS Harvest Dinner in November. The parentage is Blitz x Haven. It sports a yellow thumbprint pattern on the falls. This strongly colored yellow has bloomed five times since September 24th. Another attractive Crump SDB seedling is 20A13. It has the same parentage as 20A9, and rebloom appeared in mid November. Its yellow falls with a chartreuse veined thumbprint have great eye appeal for the hybridizer and garden visitors. Griff also likes IB seedling #20B2. The apricot near amoena has an orange red beard. "It lights up the garden," says Crump.

Two of his tall bearded creations have shown fall flower promise. Haunting, a 2006 release through Winterberry Gardens has the canny knack of flowering every Halloween. It is a deep red black with a velvety finish. 'Stealth Fighter' is (Titan's Glory X (Holy Night x Sweeter Than Wine)). Flowers have deep purple standards and red violet flared falls feature a velvety black overlay. This vigorous hopeful rebloomed immediately after spring bloom and had four stalks up in mid November. It is entirely possible some or all of these seedlings will be introduced in the near future.

Discussions on Genetics of Daylength Independent Rebloomers

Linda Mann, Chuck Chapman and Betty Wilkerson

(editors note: I tried reworking this a little to make it less cumbersome, but everything I tried was really boring. Rather than bore everyone- I opted to print more of the posts very closely to what was posted on Iris-Talk. It is a little more informal than a regular article, but the information here is worth thinking about)

A lively discussion began this November on Iris-Talk. Linda Mann observed that the only kind of rebloom that escapes being frozen in her area are the daylight independent rebloomers. She raised the questions:

- 1) Are there theories about the source of this type of rebloom?
- 2) Does it usually trace back to one particular cultivar or species?
- 3) Is it thought to be the same source for both SDBs and TBs?

There is a general consensus that there are several types or rebloom involving a different trigger mechanism. A number of genetic factors are believed to be responsible for rebloom.

Just for reference the terms being referred to in these posts are listed in the Judges Handbook

- 1) Rebloomers (Cyclic) cultivars which complete two distinct cycles of bloom
- 2) Continuous or everblooming (to be changed to multiple reblooming) Irises send up bloomstalks repeatedly at any time throughout the growing season, spring, summer and fall
- 3) Repeaters produce additional bloomstalks with unpredictable regularity immediately following the initial spring bloom season.
- 4) Occasional Rebloomers (sometimes called sporadic) are varieties which unpredicatably produce bloomstalks at variable times during the growing season. Many occassional rebloomers perform well on the West Coast and the Southern areas.

In his reply Chuck Chapman notes:

In old literature there are accounts of almost continuous bloom in i. chamaeiris, a dwarf iris. I have found aphylla in background of 'Forever Blue' and in 'What Again,' on both sides of its parentage.

'Forever Blue' and some of its seedlings don't depend on hours of sunlight, but rebloom whenever a rhizome reached bloom size. The only seedlings from 'Forever Blue' that were daylight independent rebloomers were from crosses with 'What Again.' 'Forever Blue' and 'Blueberry Tart' will bloom very early in SDB season, and continue blooming for quite awhile, almost until end of TB bloom. They then take a week break, and then start up again and rebloom sporatically until heavy frost.

I have not seen this kind of rebloom in any TBs. I had thought that perhaps 'Immortality' was of this ilk, but when crossed with FB, there was no rebloom in any of the seedlings. I have seen some early blooming TBs and heard of early bloom, as July or Aug in other areas -but in these locals, TB bloom probably ended in May, so thus at least two months after spring bloom.

'Immortality' reblooms here in southern Ontario mid Sept. at the earliest. 'Forever Blue' and ilk start end of June. Three months earlier then the earliest so called 'everbloomers'" I do have many of the ones described as everbloomers, and they just don't do that for me. Some will rebloom for me, but none earlier then Sept, and most are in Oct or later. A different set of genes, particularly as no rebloomers from crosses of 'Forever Blue' with any of the 'everbloomers.' I have gotten two season rebloomers from a cross of Victoria Falls X FB. Not bad form. VF does not rebloom here.

I used to think that vigourous growth was an absloute necessity, but 'Bella Rosa' barely hangs on, yet reblooms almost every year. A poor grower. Strong growth is a factor with most rebloomers, as is eary bloom for it's type

From Linda:

Add Tom Silver's comments about i. mellita to that list of species contributing rebloom potential.

One of the reasons I've made so many crosses with IMMORTALITY is to try to make sure that all my babies will have the <same> daylight independent set of rebloom genes to increase probability of "everbloom" (takes less typing than "daylength independent rebloom" <g>) in subsequent generations.

Very interesting that crossing two superstrong "everbloomers" (SDB X TB) didn't produce <any> rebloom seedlings! Have you tried sending any of them to the US west coast to see if they rebloom there? Any sib cross results?

Judging from all the multiple stalks from one fan/heavy branching that's showing up in my lines from IMM, my guess was that she carries a collection of aphylla rebloom genes. I plan to get one of Vickie Craig's tetraploid reblooming aphylla types to test that idea. If IMM and aphylla carry the same package of rebloom genes, then crosses between the two should all rebloom (??); if not, I expect none, like your cross, Chuck.

If there's some overlap of genes, then I guess some would everbloom, some not? Or maybe the mismatched chromosomes from such a cross will mess things up.

Another couple of 'everbloomers' here are I DO and SUNNY DISPOSITION. SD is IMMORTALITY X HARVEST OF MEMORIES. So far, one everbloom seedling from IMMORTALITY, HARVEST OF MEMORIES, & CELEBRATION SONG breeding. Two data points that lead me to conclude that either IMM and HoM have the <same> package of rebloom genes or complimentary sets of them that can combine to produce everbloom.

Chuck, others, any thoughts on dominance/recessive nature of everbloom? For IMM

seedlings here, my impression is that both daylength independence and rebloom are dose related but I can't quite see how it works.

Betty has told me that if I get rebloom from a rebloom X non-rebloom (in our eastern climate), that implies the non-rebloomer carries rebloom and probably can rebloom under just the right growing conditions.

So far, I haven't gotten any rebloomer (daylength independent or not) seedlings from two non-reblooming parents, no everbloomers unless at least one parent is an everbloomer. Haven't attempted any everbloom X everbloom crosses yet. All TBs.

I tried several non-rebloom X non-rebloom sibling crosses using IMM children this year for the first time, so may be able to understand what's going on a little better by late next year, if I'm lucky. But won't know for sure how those genes mix with HARVEST OF MEMORY rebloom genes for a while. HoM is a spring/fall bloomer here, but doesn't seem to require temperatures to get quite as cold to initiate rebloom in the fall as some do, so usually produces a lot of bloom before being frozen out.

Not sure where that type of early but daylength dependent bloom fits into the big scheme. I've always assumed that there is a temperature component for the daylength dependent rebloomers. Maybe some of the rebloom species have a different temperature threshold?

Betty Wilkerson writes:

I suspect some early rebloom is "leftover" spring bloom. That is, the buds were already set, but plant wasn't quite big enough in spring to reach the cultivar's "Trigger Size" (the size of rhizome necessary to trigger a bloom stalk). Thus basically a delayed bloom.

The repeats do appear to bloom on late maturing rhizomes. Others have argued that this is not rebloom. I do think there is opportunity for this class to be confused with sporadic bloom in the temperate zones. Or maybe they can be encouraged to grow well enough to mature more rhizomes and also produce fall bloom? Normally, Summer Radiance goes dormant after the repeat bloom and looks like it has bloomed out, but puts up more increase in the fall and starts all over.

Maybe we have more repeats than we know?? With two different collections of several hundred tall bearded irises, I've seen less than a dozen repeat over 20+ years. Two seedlings this spring.

If grown very well, can this characteristic be duplicated in other documented non-reblooming irises? If an iris only blooms off season one time, is it still a rebloomer? Does it have the rebloom genetics? Of course, it does. Otherwise, it couldn't rebloom even the one time. Some irises can never be induced to rebloom. To me, it makes more sense to classify all irises with rebloom genetics as rebloomers and then differentiate within the group.

After I moved out here, (2003) I did a search through the past 4 or 5 years of the Recorder. I wanted to find things I grew that would rebloom early in zones 4 & 5. I paid particular attention to the Jedlicka report, zone 4 and looked to see what they listed as early . . . fall 2004 page 15-17. And fall 2003, page

14. I paid particular attention to their August report, since their spring bloom season is later than mine.

I thought many of these might be repeat bloomers since both Summer Radiance & Romantic Evening were on the list and I thought both of them to be repeats. At the time, my mind was running along the lines of breeding specifically for repeats so they would have time to rebloom in the colder zones.

Then, I checked my list against Richard Richards' report, also in the Recorder. He lives in California, and he's in zone 9. I paid particular attention to the irises he had bloom early in the summer. Originally looking for those that bloomed early but might not in the fall. Paid particular attention to irises that were on the early lists of both Jedlicka & Richards.

Richard Richards reports by the month, but has rebloom just about all year. Looking back over one of his lists, I see that 'Pure As Gold' also bloomed for him in November & December! That may blow my theory of PAG!

These are the cultivars that the list members reported as having bloomed during summer months:

Again & Again All Revved Up

Autumn Jester SDB

Belvi Queen Blueberry Tart

Braggadocio seedlings

Cantina

Champagne Elegance Constant Companion IB

Cornhusker

Days of Summer Diamond Blush

Drinks At Sunset X Zurich seedlings

Feed Back Florentine Silk Forever Blue Gladiatrix

I Do

Immortality
July Yellow

Lady Emma MTB

Lord of Rings

Lunar Whitewash

Mann seedlings from Immortality

Matrix

October Sky Pagan Dance Patty Ann

Pink Attraction Pure As Gold

Renown

Rio

Romantic Evening

Romantic Evening Seedlings

Ruby Eruption SDB

Sugar Blues

Summer Greenshadows

Summer Luxury
Summer Radiance
Summer Whitewings
Sunny Disposition

Tea Leaves Total Recall Violet Miracle (Editor's note: I asked Betty to give us the parentages of the seedlings that were showing possible daylight independent bloom patterns with the hopes that the parentages could help all of us see possible patterns. Below is information on these seedlings)

1625-1Re this one always starts late July or early August. (Star Gate X (Violet Returns x Breakers) Star Gate is Feed Back x Violet Miracle. It has a sibling with great substance and better form but it blooms in October. The sib froze back this year just before it started showing color. Several stalks bloomed on 1625-1Re, but I 'd never introduce it except maybe as a hybridizer's iris. Form isn't good enough for a purple iris. I have used it in breeding, seedlings to bloom in the spring.

All Revved Up (Wilkerson 2006) starts blooming in July most years and is Innocent Star x Radiant Bliss. And Echo Location (Wilkerson 2007) is Innocent Star x Rebound. Can bloom in July & August but not as reliable as All Revved Up. Loads of bloom in the fall.

1907(Blatant x All Revved Up) produced 8 rebloomers and 4 bloomed in July. Hard to say how much they will bloom since this is the first year and I can't get a good idea of what the potential is without more stock. (seed in pots from 1907-4Re x Renown)

Three seedlings from the 1812 cross-second planting (2005) started blooming in late June and then in July. One of them has several stalks again now that have frozen. 1812 is Lemon Reflection x All Revved Up. I've bloomed nearly 150 from this cross and the more ruffled ones tend not to be the ones that rebloom, but I've got one that matched up. I have sibling crosses from this but I feel more coming on as I get to know them better. 50 of these put up stalks the first fall (2004). I got to see 30 of them before the freeze.

1810 has produced over 10 rebloomers, four bloomed in July and four in August. It also gave 2 repeat bloomers. 1810:1605-1:9415-1Re(((Victoria Falls x Vanity) x Immortality) x (Latest Style x Glistening Icicle))) x (Feed Back x Champagne Elegance) X Light Rebuff

(Latest Style x Glistening Icicle) was introduced this year as Love Lines. Great garden iris once established. Can throw whopper show stalks. Prettiest in hot weather.

1703-3re was the white this July. It is (Edith Wolford x (Silverado x Latin Lady)) X ((Immortality x Beau Zam) x (Immortality x Pledge Alligance)) Both parents were white.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

First I want to apologize for the lateness of this issue. Increasing work and family obligations have made it very difficult to continue as the editor. I have asked to be replaced- anyone who is interested should contact either myself or Barbara Aitken. Some consideration can be given to sharing the position, as I may be able to continue to assist in a lesser role.

Hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. There are already some of us counting days until the spring bloom season. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of those crosses we hybridizers have been dreaming of all winter take and those new multiple rebloomers are born!

Robin Shadlow

ps. wasn't anyone EVER going to tell me I kept typing Jane McKnew's name wrong?



Crump SDB seedling 20A9 Blitz X Haven



sib 20A13



Haunting (Crump 06)



Steath Fighter (Crump)
Titanís Glory X (Holy Night x
Sweeter Than Wine)



04R3 Crump TB seedling (G95W2:(HOLY NIGHT x SWEETER THAN WINE) X untagged seedling) - cross made in 2004, fall rebloomer

right-Baby Blessed SDB



Crump IB seedling 20B2 Lumalite x Blazing Sunrise



Zurich Queen of Show Region 3 &4 Fall Show



Lady Emma MTB



Lunar Mist TB



Liquid Amber BB

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Reblooming Iris Society

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Firebeard (Sutton 01)



Rosalie Figge (McKnew 93)

Don & Ginny Spoon 11/01 1225 Reynolds Rd. Cross Junction VA 22625-1726 Golden Immortal (Sutton 97) TB



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